

**In the Claims:**

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) A progressive gaming system comprising:

a first gaming device having an input device, a display and a controller, wherein the first gaming device is configured to receive a wager from a first player to play a progressive type game; and

a second gaming device having an input device, a display and a controller, the second gaming device being communicably coupled to the first gaming device, wherein the second gaming device is configured to receive a wager from a second player to play the progressive type game,

wherein the first and second gaming devices exchange, with each other, information associated with the amount of wagers placed by the first and the second player on each respective gaming device by exchanging an electronic data packet of a predetermined format, in order to determine the total jackpot amount to be won,

wherein determination of whether the first player has won, and the total jackpot amount to be paid to the first player is performed by the controller of the first gaming device, and

wherein determination of whether the second player has won and the total jackpot amount to be paid to the second player, is performed independently of the first gaming device, by the controller of the second gaming device.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 further comprising a first and a second precise time base, each configured to measure time of occurrence of events on the first and second gaming devices, respectively, with a resolution of picoseconds.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 wherein the first gaming device is capable of initiating a secondary bonus game independent of the

second gaming device and the second gaming device is capable of initiating a secondary bonus game independent of the first gaming device.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 wherein the first gaming device and the second gaming device communicate on a peer-to-peer basis.

18. (Previously Presented) A progressive gaming method comprising:  
providing a first gaming device having an input device, a display and a controller, wherein the first gaming device is configured to receive a wager from a first player to play a progressive type game;

providing a second gaming device having an input device, a display and a controller. the second gaming device being communicably coupled to the first gaming device, wherein the second gaming device is configured to receive a wager from a second player to play the progressive type game;

transmitting information about the wager placed by the first player from the first gaming device to the second gaming device;

transmitting information about the wager placed by the second player from the second gaming device to the first gaming device, wherein said wager information is transmitted by using an electronic data packet of a predetermined format, in order to determine the total jackpot amount to be won based on the wagers;

determining, by using the controller of the first gaming device, whether the first player has won and the total jackpot amount to be awarded to the first player; and

determining, by using the controller of the second gaming device independently of the first gaming device, whether the second player has won and the total jackpot amount to be awarded to the second player.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising:  
broadcasting a parameter block of the predetermined format to all gaming devices;

when conditions change at any gaming device, updating said parameter block according to the change in condition at said gaming device; and

broadcasting an updated parameter block from the gaming device to other gaming devices communicably coupled thereto to update operational parameters at each gaming device based upon the updated parameter block received.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 further comprising:  
upon determining that the first player has won, awarding a portion of the jackpot indicia to the first player;  
resetting all of the gaming devices; and  
awarding a remainder of the jackpot indicia to the first player pay when all gaming devices are confirmed as being reset,

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20 further comprising  
awarding a portion of the remainder of the jackpot indicia as the gaming devices are being reset but not yet confirmed as reset

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 wherein the secondary game initiated by the first gaming device has no dependency upon an outcome of the progressive type game.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 further comprising a first secondary game device communicably coupled to the first gaming device for initiating the secondary bonus game,

wherein the first secondary game device further comprises  
a display device,  
a random number generator, and  
a unit for calculating a value to determine a game outcome based upon use of generated values of said random number generator in a predetermined formula.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 16 further comprising:

a unit for choosing a random number in accordance with a predetermined selection process and mapping said random number to a symbol in accordance with a predetermined mapping process if the number of game plays of maximum bet in a play sequence is less than a predetermined maximum; and

a display device for displaying a generic icon as a placeholder to allow progress of the secondary bonus game to be ascertained.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 14 further comprising a first and a second precise time base, each configured to measure time of occurrence of events on the first and the second gaming devices, respectively, with a resolution of  $10^{-15}$ .

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18 further comprising exchanging, between the first and second gaming devices, a total amount available for pay to the first and the second player, prior to determining the total jackpot amount to be paid according to predetermined parameters.